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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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2/24/03  
R/S

In re application of : **BOX: AF**  
Thierry CHAPUS *et al.* : Examiner: Walter Dean Griffin  
Serial No.: 09/780,418 : Group Art Unit: 1764  
Filed: February 12, 2001 :  
For: **PROCESS AND APPARATUS EMPLOYING A PLURALITY OF CATALYTIC  
BEDS IN SERIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LOW SULPHUR GAS OIL**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This reply to the Office Action of October 15, 2002 is being filed in a timely manner with a one month extension of time. Applicants respectfully submit that February 17, 2003 was a Federal Holiday (President's Day) and that the Federal Government was closed on February 18, 2003 due to a winter storm. Please amend the above-identified application and consider the remarks as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A process for hydrodesulphurising a kerosene and/or a gas oil cut to a residual sulfur content of less than 30 ppm weight comprising:

at least one first hydrodesulfurization step a) in which said kerosene and/or gas oil cut and hydrogen are passed over a catalyst disposed in a fixed bed comprising on a mineral support, at least one metal or compound of a metal from group VIB of the periodic table in a quantity, expressed as the weight of the metal with respect to the weight of the finished catalyst, of about 0.5% to 40%, at least one non noble metal or compound of a non noble metal from group VIII of said periodic table in a quantity, expressed as the weight of the metal with respect to the weight of the finished catalyst, of about 0.1% to 30%, and